



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

General Background:

Date: June 23, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring.

The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

Update for the week of June 23, 2014:

Director:

- External constituent groups have been pleased with the responsiveness of the Forest Service throughout the EIS process.
- The final EIS and Record of Decision will increase the work load of the team starting this Friday.
- All but 1,000 of the 5,611 DEIS comments have been inventoried.

Engineering:

- Care should be taken on the Clavey Bridge due to repair work occurring there on the weekends.
- Heavy equipment is presently quite active on roads 1503 and 3N01S.

Partnership:

- A \$12,132 donation was turned over to the Forest on 6/17 for use on recovery projects. The Tuolumne River Trust will be matching the funds dollar for dollar. Proceeds are from selling Rim Fire T-shirts.
- The Forest Service Regional Office has ear-marked \$170,000 for use in repairing trails damaged by the fire.

Communications:

- First run of the Stanislaus Traveler Companion will be out Thursday. Approximately 10,000 copies will be inserted in the "Union Democrat."



A donation of \$12,132 was received by Forest Officials on June 17th. The Tuolumne River Trust will match this money, dollar for dollar. Funds will go towards Rim Fire Recovery projects.

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact: (209)-432-3709.